



Benelux Meteor

Volume 22, Number 7

Published by the 80th Area Support Group

April 22, 2004

The U.S. military is home for special needs children - Julian's story



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

By Rick Haverinen

"We went to the military obstetrician and I kept saying, 'Something's wrong,'" said Mare Adams. "This child isn't reaching any milestones. He doesn't roll over. He doesn't gaggle. He can't put his hand to his face.' But he was a great baby. He never cried. He wasn't colicky. He smiled all the time, so content."

Mare Adams describes some of the symptoms that concerned her and her husband, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bill Smith, shortly after their second son, Julian, was born in June 1995.

"Probably when he was born, I guess the crossed eyes were what struck you the most," said Bill Smith.

Julian, who is now 8, had surgery to correct the alignment of his eyes when he was 18 months old. Several more eye operations followed.

"His eyes were so crossed, his brain was shutting down one eye," Adams said. "So he was only looking out of the other eye. And he never complained. We didn't know these things were happening."

"They always tell you with your second child, don't compare them. Noah (their first child, now 10) was by the book. You open a book, and if it said your child was supposed to do this, this and that, Noah did everything he was supposed to do. He read the book before we did."

"Julian had significant hearing loss which we didn't know about until he was old enough that they could actually measure it," Smith said.

When Julian was born Smith was assigned to the Heritage of America Band at Langley

Air Force Base, Va. The parents' concerns about their second-born child were at first not taken seriously by their military pediatrician at Langley, who kept insisting that children develop differently. When Julian was 10 months old, the parents got an appointment with a developmental specialist at Navy Medical Center Portsmouth (Va.) and the intervention services wheel started turning for the family.

"You do the blood tests, you do the genetic tests, you do all the different tests that they want," Adams said. "They look at certain things like the splayed fingers that indicate signs of mental retardation like Down's syndrome."

"But they couldn't really peg anything on Julian as far as any genetic illness," Smith said. "All they could say is that he was developmentally delayed with these other specific problems."

In August 1997 Smith was reassigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

"And of course the EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) folks were very involved in contacting the base in Alaska," Smith said. "When you're first tagged for an assignment, EFMP knows what your medical needs are, so they contact the gaining medical facility and the hospital in Alaska made sure all the developmental specialists were in place, because it wasn't a given. I mean, Alaska is a large state without very many people."

"They had one pediatric developmental neurologist in the whole state," Adams said. "This guy is so fantastic. It was great."

"The point was that going to my assignment at Elmendorf, we knew that the services

would be in place for Julian," Smith said. "I can't see having made a move without all that prior knowledge that the EFMP process gave us."

Smith was reassigned to SHAPE International Band in Sept. 2000, when Julian was 5.

"And again, same thing happened," Smith said, "the EFMP folks called over here to Belgium to make sure the services were available both medically and educationally for Julian. When we got here there was a little delay because the occupational therapist position wasn't filled yet. But all the other services were in place for Julian when we got here. In fact, they were excited by having us come over."

"And unfortunately Sept. 2000 was when Julian first had a series of seizures, which they then called epilepsy," Adams said. "So ironically, we didn't plan to come here with a child with a string of needs, but you know, that happens sometimes."

Adams said the parents made numerous visits to offices of Tricare, the uniformed services health benefits program.

"Tricare was always extremely helpful," Adams said. "Not only did they let us know who the specialists were, they gave us maps to get there. They made the phone calls for us and even made the translations. If we feel one facility may be more appropriate than another, they'll very easily work with that, in making us feel we have as much choice as possible."

Adams also has accolades for the Exceptional Family Member Program.

See Julian's Story, Page 4.

Quick Read

In General

Fire on the mountain

USAREUR and Army Europe MWR present the Charlie Daniels Band in a free concert at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, May 6. Gates open 3 p.m. and the concert starts 6 p.m. at Hangar 1036. Hear "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." All military ID card holders and their families are invited. Food and drink concessions are available. No videotaping or coolers are allowed. Info: Wiesbaden Entertainment, DSN 337-6111.

Belgium

Hurry up and weight

The Europe-Wide Power Lifting Competition is April 24, 10 a.m., at Community Activity Center, Chièvres Air Base. Watch power lifters from across Europe. Info: DSN 423-4405/3923, civilian 065 44-4405/3923, or Chievres ActivityCenter@benelux.army.mil

Fly low altitude

The Aviator's March is May 1 on Chièvres Air Base. The five, 10, 15 and 20 kilometer historical walks begin 7 a.m. from the Community Activity Center. The Rick Moore Magic Show is 1 p.m., and a live band plays 3 p.m. Info: 068 27 5589.

Think thrift

Thrift Savings Plan open season is through June 30. ACS will have TSP presentations May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and May 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in NSA Building 2 conference room. Sign up deadline is April 23. Civilians contact your financial readiness program manager for another class.

Netherlands and Germany

Say thanks to volunteers

A ceremony is April 27 to say thanks to volunteers for all their hard work. Info: Teri Ryan, 046-443-7500.

Wine tasting scheduled

The Deary Vaughn Masonic Lodge has a wine probe and river cruise May 8, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Cost is Euro 55. Call Michael Harrison, 31 45 526-3514 or Ron Parks at 31 45 526-3630.

CLEP testing is back

The Treebeek Education Center has new College Level Examination Program material. Info: DSN 364-6060.

Umpires needed

The 254th BSB Youth Center baseball season starts in a few weeks. If interested in earning extra cash by umpiring, call 364-2023 or 045 526-2023.

1st Armored Div. deployment extended

14 April 2004

Bell Sends #16-04

Operation Iraqi Freedom Extension
Task Force First Armored Division

1. To the families and loved ones of Task Force First Armored Division: The Commander, U.S. Central Command has requested, and the Department of Defense has approved that Soldiers of the First Armored Division Task Force remain in Iraq for up to an additional 90 days. Redeployment to Germany through Kuwait will add an additional amount of time, potentially up to 30 days. The leadership has further stated that if increased force strength is required in Iraq beyond the 90-day period, replacement formations will be brought in to ensure the

First Armored Division departs Iraq within the 90-day timeframe.

2. Old Ironsides Soldiers have spent the last year working to bring peace and democracy to the citizens of Iraq. Your troops have achieved phenomenal success in this most noble mission, while proving to be exceptional Soldiers, warriors, and patriots. Indeed, the year has been filled with enormous sacrifices on their part and certainly on yours. You are all our heroes. The decision to extend the divi-



Gen. B. B. Bell

sion was made by commanders in the field, with the full recognition of the additional sacrifices the additional service in Iraq will require.

3. Headquarters, United States Army Europe will work to bring the entire First Armored Division home quickly, as soon as the mission the unit is assigned has been completed. In the meantime, I want you to know that all the leaders here in Europe, from your Rear Detachment Commanders, through your BSB, ASG, and V Corps, to Headquar-

ters, United States Army Europe, will work tirelessly on your behalf to ensure we meet your needs. We will not let you down. We will continue to provide updated information to you as we support each other and your Soldiers during this challenging time.

4. All of us in United States Army, Europe and the entire Nation are deeply grateful for your continuing sacrifices. Thank you and God bless you and your incredible Soldiers.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

USAREUR Standard Card reminder for NCOs

2 April 2004

Bell Sends #15-04

The USAREUR Standard Card

1. The purpose of this message is to emphasize and reinforce the duties and responsibilities of our noncommissioned officers. These are outlined in the recently published USAREUR Standard Card. We both want to ensure that all noncommissioned officers assigned to USAREUR possess and carry a copy. The card is available through USAREUR distribution channels.

2. Even when "off duty," our NCOs are "on duty" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, both in and out of uniform. They are a patriotic group of professionals who take pride in their subordinates and in their mission. Every day they ensure their Soldiers are cared for and ready to execute missions

on behalf of the Nation. This is why NCOs are "the backbone of the Army."

3. The purpose of the USAREUR Standard Card is to provide NCOs a guide that identifies specific duties and responsibilities that need continued emphasis. The card is not intended to serve as the only source of guidance; it merely supplements established standards and regulations in a clear, concise format. The card emphasizes—

- NCO pride
- Standards and discipline
- Training
- Soldier and family well-being
- Safety

4. All USAREUR leaders, including our officers, will use the USAREUR Standard Card to enforce standards. Senior

leaders should expect that their NCOs refer to and use the card when conducting daily duties. Also, the NCO support chain will give a copy of the card to each newly assigned NCO in USAREUR and to each Soldier who is promoted to an NCO rank.

5. The goal is to further enhance and strengthen an already proud, cohesive, well-trained NCO Corps in USAREUR. This card will help us achieve that goal. In doing so, it will also help ensure that we are ready to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program needs more helpers

Uncle SNAP wants you.

It's easy to get lulled into the land of the laid-back when relaxing around home, but just as the lawn has to be mowed and the dishes need to be washed, it's also a part of everyday maintenance in a military community to keep your eyes and ears open.

"We deal a lot with force protection and physical security and because (the tranquility of) Belgium is on peoples' minds, the least of their worries are terrorism and force protection," said Marcia DeVille, Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program coordinator for the 80th Area Support Group.

DeVille is looking for people to volunteer time for the various SNAP programs.

"SNAP is very flexible, so it would be whatever time they're willing to give,"

DeVille said.

DeVille is courting volunteers to help in any of three categories - a board of advisors, event operations, and neighborhood sentinels.

An example of an event is the Kid Kredentials child identification program that DeVille will take to schools June 14-18.

The neighborhood sentinels are out there to keep their eyes and ears open.

"You take a vow that you will report any suspicious activity that you perceive," DeVille said. "We don't want anyone to confront anyone."

DeVille said the volunteer duty is scaled down from a Neighborhood Watch program because of Belgium's anti-militia laws.

"A volunteer would just walk the com-

munity maybe for an hour or a half-hour, and just make sure everything is on the up and up."

The sentinel part of the program helps curb both everyday crime and the uncommon crime of terrorism.

"Just for 2004, we've had four house break-ins already," DeVille said. "So we do have a problem with crime. It's not drastic numbers, but for our community being so small, it's something that draws your attention."



DeVille

Kim Perino, the 80th ASG's force protection officer, likes the idea of an active pool of SNAP volunteers.

"The one thing we do know in all cases, is that before the terrorists attack, they surveil their targets," Perino said. "So by keeping watch you are preventing someone from breaking into your neighbor's house, or stealing their car, or you could be preventing something even more serious."

There are several ways to contact DeVille. The email address is snap@benelux.army.mil The telephone numbers are DSN 361-6143 or civilian 068 27 6143 for her office, and DSN 361-6300 or civilian 068 27 6300 for the SNAP Hotline. The provost marshal emergency number is DSN 361-5114 or civilian 068 27 5114.

Army Emergency Relief campaign rolls

The campaign is underway within the footprint of 80th Area Support Group to collect contributions to Army Emergency Relief.

"AER helps the Army take care of its own," said Quentin Jackson, campaign chairman for the SHAPE, Chièvres, and Brussels communities. "That means Army active duty, military and their family members, retired military and their family members, and reserve component Soldiers on order for active duty for 30 or more days."

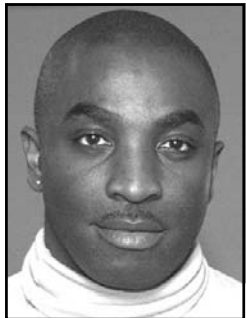
Jackson said AER helps Soldiers who are short on cash when a crisis hits.

"AER could give you a loan if you can't pay your rent," Jackson said. "Or if your car broke down, they can help you with that. Or if you don't have

your military pay, and you don't have money to feed your family, you can go to AER and get a loan for some groceries. They help with emergency leave also. If you're overseas they help you pay for your ticket to the States and back, and in most cases they'll help for the hotel room."

Jackson said contributions to AER are tax-deductable, and that 96 percent of the money raised goes directly to help Soldiers. Although the charity helps Soldiers, civilians are certainly welcome to contribute. Last year, the local campaign raised approximately 20 percent of total funds that were distributed in this area.

For information about the AER campaign in the SHAPE/Chièvres and Brussels/NSA communities call Jackson at DSN 361-5973. In Schinnen call Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Johnson, DSN 360-7226.



Jackson

Fines increase in Germany for some common offenses on public highways

By Robert Szostek

Many traffic rules changed in Germany April 1. According to a press release from the Koblenz police headquarters:

Making a call while driving without a "no-hands" phone system will now result

in a Euro 40 fine. Because tickets from Euro 40 upwards earn points against your license, making a call with a hand-held mobile phone while driving is now punished with a point too. Cyclists now pay Euro 25 when they are caught phoning while cycling, but do

not receive a point. U.S. authorities assess two points against a USAREUR license for this offense in Germany.

· A fine of Euro 40 is due if you park your car in a way that could prevent rescue vehicles from getting through a narrow street.

· If somebody manages to go the wrong way around a traffic circle, that will cost •20.

· A Euro fine is now the penalty for people who overtake vehicles on highways at a speed that is not significantly higher than that of the vehicle being overtaken.

\$5,000 reward offered for missing Army truck

HEIDELBERG, Germany—A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the theft of an Army M35A3 Two-and-a-Half-Ton Truck that was stolen March 30, at approximately 6 a.m., from the Mainz Industrial Park.

The Wiesbaden Resident CID Agency office is conducting an investigation of this larceny of U.S. governmental property. The stolen military vehicle, bumper number 92-43, serial number 503771, is valued at approximately \$56,500.00.

Anyone with information about this vehicle is encouraged to call their local military or host-nation police immediately.

Remember to nurture the child's spirit

By Chaplain (Maj.) Mickey Jett

The church prides itself on being not only a place where adults come to worship, but also being a child-oriented community. We take literally the words of Christ who said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these," (Mark 10:14.) Therefore, one of the missions we have as a community of faith is to raise our children with their story joined with Our Father's Story. That occurs when they come to an understanding that they are part of the community of faith. One of the great assets the community of faith has in the influence of our children is by family members and church members modeling that faith in all circumstances. Behavioral psychologists tell us that modeling is one of the principle ways we pass behaviors to our children.

Our parents model spirituality, faith, commitment and other values for our children day-in and day-out. Therefore, it begins at home. Parents have an obligation to live out their faith in relation to God and demonstrate its value to their children. Moses said, "And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' You shall say..."

Moses describes for the nation of Israel three thousand years ago how to do it. It is through the modeling of parents own relationship to God. Parents model the importance of faith in God by attending worship service together, living out their faith in front of their family and practicing the rituals of their tradition.

By modeling this, we demonstrate our commitment to the faith. We show our children our faith and other values. These be-



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Chaplain (Maj.) Mickey Jett congratulates Tymen Jansen, 6, March 5 at a pizza party to mark the end of a youth basketball season. Jett was Tymen's coach.

haviors are transferred to great extent onto our children. They remember how it was with mom and dad. If mom and dad lived out anxiety, that same anxiety will show up in their way of coping. If they see mom and dad living out the rituals of their faith, then this same faith will probably be part of their life. Children see faith principles that brought structure to their early lives, so that when grown, that foundation will be well-rooted.

There is further instruction in the Old Testament for the parent's responsibility in raising their child. God tells the people through Moses that their children and their children's children, "even to the fourth generation, will be blessed if they respond to God by living according to the teaching of the Word but will be disciplined if they respond in disobedience (Exodus 20: 1-3; Deuteronomy 5: 8-10.) The church leaders have a responsibility in teaching this prin-

ciple. The standard is that we need to instruct our children in the faith, in values, in practicing right principles. Parents need to take inventory to see if they themselves are modeling good things.

How does modeling faith and values influence our military families who are part of the community of faith? It is a matter of common sense that when a military member is deployed, then the family experiences more stress. Yet, if the families have connection with others in the community, then the stress can be less. In the church, these families have an established structure that teaches faith, hope and love. Also, these families know that their military members will be practicing the same faith while separated. There is a lot of relief and support in this knowledge. Why? The children saw their parents model those values well before the time they left home. The Bible tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6.) "As the Twig is bent, so grows the tree" is an old aphorism which embodies these very basic scriptural and spiritual principles. The spouse also has a sense of trust around her partner's fidelity and faithfulness since the church strongly teaches those principles. So, these families not only have the strength of faith connection, but also a belief that the military member will come back with that same set of values still intact.

Finally, knowing this, we need to realize how important our faith, our actions, and behaviors are on our children and each other. Practice your rituals, traditions and your faith daily. We only have one chance for this type of influence.

Jett is director of 80th Area Support Group Family Life Center

Do-it-yourself schooling for a home-made education

By Sandy Aubrey

What could be better than waking up at 7:45 a.m., brushing your teeth and heading downstairs for school at 8 a.m. as you chomp on cereal and toast? Not much.

Parents and children who choose homeschooling as an alternative education process would probably have a similar start to their day. But what is homeschooling and why would anyone want the daunting task and responsibility of teaching their child?

Homeschooling takes many forms, from a daily routine following a scheduled curriculum to unschooling which is a child-led learning experience in which parents supervise and help. Choosing to homeschool or to traditionally educate a child is often a difficult decision.

The number of homeschooling families in the Tri-border varies as people move in and out.

The U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled explicitly on homeschooling, but it did rule against compulsory school requirements in Wisconsin vs. Yoder (1972). The Supreme Court has also upheld the right, subject to reasonable state requirements, of parents to direct the education of their children.

The number of children and teenagers who are homeschooled has increased in recent years in the United States. The number of Americans taught by their families went from 800,000 in 1999 to over one million last year, according to the National Center of Education Statistics.

Those who choose to homeschool do so for a variety of reasons. Some feel they can provide a better quality of education at home. They may seek a more religious and less secular education curriculum. Some children do not learn well in a classroom setting and need more one-on-one attention. Sometimes parents want to keep contact with peer groups to a minimum to avoid socially unacceptable behavior. Finally, there is the issue of safety, or lack of it, in schools. The desire for religious education, and bullying are among the principle motives that lead Americans to remove their children from school.

Nevertheless, whatever the reasons may be, the bottom line is that homeschooling is a lifestyle that requires resources and time. Parents must be willing to do whatever is necessary to make the home education an exercise in

excellence and a positive experience for children. Some people homeschool for a couple of semesters, some for one or two grades before reintegrating their child back into a formal school setting. There are also those who homeschool their children through high school after which the child can pass a state high school proficiency test to get a diploma.

One family in the Tri-border that decided to homeschool was the Lax family. Staff Sgt. Jeff Lax is the Defense Messaging System administrator at the 39th Signal Bn. at Schinnen and his wife, Chris, is a homemaker who decided to homeschool their 14 year-old son, D'Jon, in January.

"I homeschooled my eldest son, Anthony, for a semester when he was in the eighth grade so I'm familiar with the concept," Lax said.



Chris Lax

The experience with Anthony only lasted a semester because he very much wanted to go back to school but now Lax says she wishes she had continued with him for at least another year. Today Anthony is a graduating senior at AFNorth International School who is looking at a career in a technical field.

After three years of serious health problems, and the death of her mother, Lax felt her relationship with the boys, especially D'Jon, had suffered. She decided to homeschool D'Jon because she felt she had somehow lost connectivity with her youngest and it was reflecting in his school work and social behavior.

"D'Jon saw school as a social hour and he just wasn't buying into the education process," Lax said. "He seemed to be losing some of the Christian values we live by. This, and the fact that he was having behavior problems, was what made me decide on homeschooling."

Lax went on-line and found all the information she needed to start homeschooling. The program she chose is Bible-based and not only teaches religion specifically, but also incorporates Christian values into the curriculum.

"You can't beat kids over the head with religion; it'll just turn them off. The good thing about the way this program is set up is that kids are taught (Christian) values in their English lesson, science, history and other subjects without them even knowing."

At the time Lax decided to homeschool her son he had

fallen behind in school and needed serious one-on-one attention from a teacher.

"I know teachers try to make sure a class progresses together but they can only wait so long and that's how some kids get left behind," she said. "It's my job to review and make sure he has what he missed the first time."

Their day starts promptly at 8 a.m. and they work until 12:30 p.m. After lunch D'Jon works on assignments, reads and studies for two more hours.

Lax says she gives quizzes, tests and homework regularly. She strives to instill independent study habits and the importance of meeting deadlines and assuming responsibility.

So far her biggest challenge has been learning to be flexible because she's had to use various teaching strategies for different subjects.

"I have to figure out how to reach him. What works today may not work tomorrow. The internet has a wealth of information about homeschooling plus there are support groups, message boards and chat rooms that help too."

Although homeschooling cuts into her day and she's had to give up many of her volunteer activities, she says she wouldn't change the experience for anything.

"I feel God gave me a second chance with D'Jon and it's my responsibility as his mother to ensure that he's taught the same values we have, and learns to lead a Christian life," Lax said.

Homeschooling is controversial. The National Parent Teacher Association opposes the practice, as does the National Education Association and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

However, according to educational sociology professor, Mitchell Stevens of Hamilton College in New York, the movement has grown because Americans prefer individualized instruction. In Stevens' opinion, the movement is working and his research shows the success of those homeschooled is as good as those who attended traditional schools.

While homeschooling's academic worth is contested by researchers, educators, and parents, it's difficult to say for certain whether these children would do better or worse in a public or private school. The fact is that homeschooling is on the rise in the U.S. as parents become more disenfranchised by the public school system.

Julian's Story, from Page 1

"It gets to a point when you start having other questions that aren't immediately related to health," Adams said, "and that's where the EFMP family, the people who work in the organization are wonderful, because they can often anticipate the kinds of questions you never dreamed would come up. For instance, if you have a child in a wheelchair, 'We can try to get you a first floor apartment.' And they'll try their best with the housing office to get that for you."

"We have an issue with Julian because for no known reason, he has a very low immune system. Anything that came down the pike, Julian was the canary. He was always getting it first. And through EFMP, we were sure of getting a hot water washing machine. I really, really wanted that. And I was told that's not always available. But EFMP and Dr. William Collazo even wrote a prescription. He said it was the first prescription he ever wrote as a pediatrician for a hot water washing machine. And if you need help, they'd be there to make the phone calls for us."

Julian has an impressive list of active duty military and civilian medical specialists he has seen.

"Julian has had all the therapies, occupational, speech and physical therapy," Adams said. "He's had pediatric, neurological, developmental. These people are like million dollar specialists, pediatric neurologists, pediatric mental neurologists... also one of the country's top heart specialists. He's a military man and they flew him up from Seattle."

"Julian was fine but the doctor had a concern about a possible rhythmic thing," Smith said.

"But it was good to know it was benign," Adams said.

"We've also seen eye specialists, of course," Smith said.

"There are several, the optometrist, the ophthalmologist, and the pediatric ophthalmologist, the one who does the surgery, so there are several eye specialists."

"Then there are all the blood workups that he gets, and psychologists," Adams said. "Now because he's in school, the big question is, is he mentally retarded or learning disabled, and it's very hard to tell. I don't care what he is. I



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bill Smith, Mare Adams, and Noah, 10, left, and Julian, 8, enjoy a family-sized slide March 27 at a playground on SHAPE Village.

for Julian. That kind of peace of mind you cannot buy."

"Julian is in a community that's supporting him 110 percent," Adams said. "There isn't another community that's so supportive. One day he missed the school bus. Someone who recognized our family, saw Julian on the sidewalk, with his backpack still waiting, and the buses were gone. And she said, 'Julian, did you miss your bus?' And he didn't really understand. So this dear lady walked Julian to the school office. You know, there's a safety net here."

Smith, a trombonist for the SHAPE International Band, was a professional musician before joining the Air Force. Because of Julian's condition, he said staying active duty longer is more attractive than a shorter term.

"I have a degree in education so I may go into teaching when I'm out," Smith said. "Unless I'm certain I had a job that provided the same medical care that I'm getting now, it would be difficult to jump ship."

"We're going to stay in for longer than the 20 year retirement," Adams said. "It's never been just Bill's career. I think most military families will tell you one way or another, the whole family does it."

Having a special needs child has meant some financial sacrifice.

"I think Mare would have a lot more freedom to go out and get a full-time job or to work more," Smith said, "and because of Julian's needs..."

"I can't work, really," Adams said.

"Every year it gets easier," Smith said.

"I know if he had a seizure at school, they could run him to the clinic," Adams said. "I know that Julian's fine, but I feel so on edge, needing to be on call. Epilepsy and mental retardation are still those things where people... I guess they half think it might be contagious or something."

What have Julian's parents learned from him?

"Before Julian was born, I used to laugh at people who said, 'Our child was the biggest gift to us,'" Adams explained. "I just could not concede that anybody ever

would (believe that.) So coming from a real skeptical, logical point of view, Julian has taught us that you have to live in the present, that communication goes way beyond words. Words are the least part of communication. Eye contact, touch, kindness, these things are more important. It's easy to think that the real world is all about getting up in the morning, getting to your job, coming home. That's an illusion. The biggest truth to our reality is what's underneath."

"Julian has shown us Life with a capital L. He's not perfect. He can be naughty. The first time he was naughty he was five years old. We had never seen him naughty and we jumped up and down and clapped. And he just looked at us dumbfounded. He knew he was being naughty, but he didn't expect the applause. But you need to be naughty. If you're good all the time, that's really low on the cognitive chain. He showed a higher order of thinking there."

"You take little things for granted as a normal person," Smith said. "Sometimes we get so wrapped up in a day that we don't notice anything else. Julian has taught me how special even simple things are, like catching a ball. It gives you a different perspective. As a result, waiting in line in traffic doesn't seem to matter as much. He's a real gift. Absolutely."



Bill – "When Julian's a little older, he still has a wide range of possibilities. We hope he'll be more or less self-sufficient when he's an older person, a young adult or whatever. He may need some assistance. He may need to live in a group home. Or he may be totally independent. He may learn to drive and work a job or whatever. He may do anything."

want what's best for Julian. And right now I'm not sure he is mentally retarded, I think he's cognitively slow. I think I see pictures of him catching up. You know as his parent, I can't say that. I can't say that he is mentally retarded because that's defeatist."

"It's hard to say that as a mother," Bill explained.

"Well, it's my job to think of him in the best light," Adams said. "That's what I do."

Julian's parents said that as he gets older, the urgency of his needs are more educational and less medical.

Do families associated with the U.S. military have a better situation in providing for special needs children than do families without the same care system?

"(Being in the military) has been the best thing that ever happened to our family," Adams said. "I would encourage anybody who's looking for a future, to consider something in the military. And I was so skeptical, but it's become so wonderful for us. However when you get out in the real world, try getting a job or health insurance. We have never gone to bed worrying about money



Mare – "Nobody wants to be the one to tell you that your child will never walk again. It's one thing to say that your child has allergies or asthma and they may outgrow it. That doesn't appear as debilitating as saying, 'We think your child may have a certain type of heart disease.' People do not want to give any prognosis. They only work on diagnosis. And in the end, I think that's good."

Families, services are exceptional

By Rick Haverinen

When a U.S. military family includes a member who has a special need for medical, educational or psychological help, the Dept. of Defense wants the family to bring their situation to the Exceptional Family Member Program.

"It's for all services and we need it to ensure we're sending families to locations where their needs can be supported," said Mary Prince, who manages the program for Army Community Service in the 80th Area Support Group. "For instance, SHAPE is considered a mild to moderate needs area. We wouldn't want to send someone here who needed

to be in a category four school, which would be for the most needy children. So the purpose of the program is to pre-screen families before they move to a new duty station to ensure services are available for that family."

The program is mandatory for all American service members, so the head of the family is expected to know if a family member needs help, and then register in the program. Because Americans deployed to the SHAPE mission come in all uniforms, Prince's office serves all the U.S. military services. The textbook language for EFMP says it "works with other military and civilian agencies to

provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to families with special needs."

Special needs can include many conditions.

"It runs from mild to severe, starting with asthma," Prince said, "attention deficit disorder, depression, bi-polar disorder or other mental health or psychological issues, any physical disabilities or needs. It can be any medical or educational condition that needs something more than the norm. It's going to require medicine, a doctor following it, or special education."

Prince said the system is so designed that military members will not be assigned to communities that cannot meet their specific needs.

When the family arrives at the next duty station, the local EFMP office helps ensure the family receives the needed services.

"I think one of the things that is often missed is that EFMP is not just an enrollment process, it's a quality of life process," Prince said, "and we are constantly looking for ways to improve quality of life for special needs families. We want to make sure that people who enroll in EFMP don't feel left out. We

want them to be involved. We want them to come to us to let us know what we can do to improve their quality of life in this community, and we will certainly work to make that happen."

Prince said the government administers and manages, but the families are actually the animators of the program.

"It's so amazing to see the families take their special needs issues that they're having to deal with and turn them around and make something positive out of it," Prince said. "They help other people who

are dealing with the same thing, to maybe create a parent support group or information exchange, and those are the types of families that I love to make contact with. For instance, we have some families in the community willing to share. They've told me, if I have anyone who needs assistance, then I'm free to give their phone number. That's one of the things that really encourages me."

For information about the Exceptional Family Member Program call Mary Prince at DSN 423-7461 or civilian 065 44-7461.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Mare Adams, left, and Mary Prince look at scores March 27 during a bowling outing on SHAPE Village for members of the Exceptional Family Member Program.

"I sense a lot of people are still feeling embarrassed, stigmatized, ashamed, (of their family situation.) 'My child only has asthma, he's not retarded. We don't need Exceptional Family Member Program.' But you know what? Maybe EFMP needs your child. Maybe there's another child out there, another family, who's also having issues with asthma and their kid wants to play basketball so badly and the parents are afraid and they have to say no. Maybe that family needs nothing else than a nod or a smile to say, 'I know what you're going through.' And sometimes the knowing is a gift that's priceless. Please don't be afraid to come over to EFMP and ask questions for any of your family members. Maybe you don't need EFMP but maybe our family needs your family."

Mare Adams

Safer advice: spoil the rod, spare the child

By J.P. Blanchard

Not everyone spansks their children, and not everyone was spanked as a child—even though many Americans were.

Hardly any children in Japan are spanked and — no, they are not running amuck today. In fact, murder by handguns there is a negligible statistic—just a handful every year. The fact that children are spanked less today is part of a growing awareness of the dangers of the use of physical discipline techniques. Spanking appears to work in the short run because the child usually stops doing whatever provoked the parent's displeasure. But new research clearly shows in the long run, spanking has no measurable beneficial effects at all, and is in fact associated with long-term negative effects. The more children are spanked, the more they assault siblings and other children.

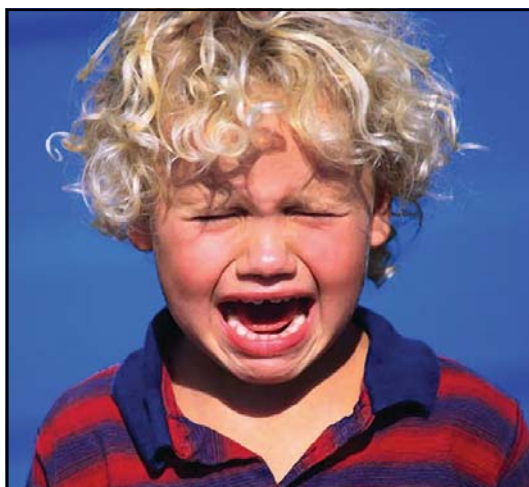
For this reason spanking is becoming illegal in some parts of the world, as in Sweden, spanking is outlawed and considered child abuse. In America, the tolerance for spanking varies by state but acceptance of the practice is declining. Many practices that were normative in the past are no longer considered acceptable. For example, at one time a man was allowed to physically discipline his wife, as long as the amount and type of force was reasonable. The English expression "rule of thumb" referred to the fact that in England a man could beat his wife as long as the implement used was not thicker than his thumb.

Societal changes occur slowly, but incrementally. Proponents of spanking have dwindled in recent decades, and no one today will condone the more aggressive types of spanking that were common in the past such as whipping or strapping with switches.

The few child experts who still advocate spanking tend to reserve it only for extreme

situations, and most will warn about the dangers associated with excessive use of any type of physical discipline. The typical "extreme" scenario is the three year-old who might be spanked for running into the road — and yet spanking the child is not as effective as other ways of "child-proofing" the environment, such as supervision, protection, limits, fences, etc.

Using spanking in many situations has



more to do with the parents' fear and adrenaline than any conscious effort to change behavior. What do blows to the buttocks have to do with crossing the road? This is the main reason for the ineffectiveness of spanking—children do not easily make the connection to the desired behavior, or they learn to be sneaky to avoid the swats. It basically teaches them to not get caught—and to lie if you have to, to avoid the consequences. Even advocates of spanking limit the use of the technique to the pre-school child. Few child experts today suggest the method for older children. Few parents spank older children, because it has become much less socially acceptable to physically discipline children in middle school. If spanking, hitting and whipping continue into adolescence, it's unfortunately a safe

bet to expect that the teen's violence will turn on the parent at some point. All of which reinforces the argument that physical discipline should be only a small part — if used at all — of the myriad ways of managing child problems. Schools and daycare centers must effectively discipline children without any physical interventions other than, in extreme situations, constraint.

Some physical actions of parents are not discipline at all but are considered abusive even when not necessarily illegal. For example, slapping a teen in the mouth for spouting off is not a good intervention and can never be construed as discipline. This type of act is simply an act of parental aggression, an angry parent reaction, a mistake. Again as with the spousal relationship, the societal view of this kind of behavior has progressed to where striking a teenager is nearly as unacceptable today as slapping one's spouse. One slap is abusive; repeatedly slapping and hitting a teen constitutes a pattern of abuse; and an injury to the child means that the police will investigate the crime of assault.

So while spanking is by no means universally considered abusive, it can in fact become abuse if used primarily, or frequently or severely. Over-reliance on physical discipline can be the beginning of a pattern of hitting that greatly increases the risk for injury and maltreatment.

In the Department of Defense, striking a child with any object (whipping, paddling, or other "spanking" with objects) can result in child abuse charges. Spanking is not encouraged but is tolerated in military families if done with an open hand on the buttocks, over the clothes and by a calm parent. That's right, you can be reported for abuse if some one sees you aggressively

grabbing your child at the PX, yelling, spanking him or swatting her on the head or arms or in general, losing control. A better consequence for the child, and a better reward for the parent, is to make alternate plans and ban the child from the PX.

Before it gets to the point that a parent loses control, it's good to become familiar with other means of discipline. Parents should realize too, that if they were spanked as children they will be inclined to spank their children. We often do what we know and keep doing it, whether or not it works. On the other hand, many people today intentionally attempt to parent in a different way than the way they were parented and have come to look at discipline as a broader concept than "punishment." In fact, *discipline* and "*disciple*" are related words, both having to do with the verb *to follow*, in this case all that a parent does to help children follow and learn social behaviors.

About one half of child discipline is technique (reward and punishment, consistency, limit setting). The rest of discipline flows from the *parent-child relationship*, which is always a work in progress, of course, but also sets the tone for the remainder of the hard work to be done in raising a child.

If you need help with ways to improve your relationship with your child or to adopt more positive, non-physical parenting techniques, there are resources available through Army Community Service, Social Work Services or the Family Life Center.

J.P. Blanchard is Chief of SHAPE Social Work Service.



Blanchard

Brussels Community Calendar

Community Spouse's Club meeting and luncheon, April 22, 12:30 p.m., NSA Fellowship Hall
CYS Parent Advisory Council Meeting, April 22, 5-6 p.m., CYS Info: 02 717-9665.

ACS (02 717-9783) Metro Madness class April 30, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Gaining the Professional Edge workshop April 27, 10:00 a.m.-noon and May 5, 1-3 p.m., Old Sanctuary; First Rate Resume workshop April 27, 1-3 p.m. and May 5 from 3:30-5 p.m., Old Sanctuary; Interview Essentials workshop, April 27, 3:30-5 p.m. and May 5, 10 a.m.-noon, Old Sanctuary; Newcomers Briefing-key agency overview April 27, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NSA bldg 3 conference room; Newcomers Briefing-hospital tour and Belgium overview April 28, 9:30 a.m.-noon, ACS; Newcomers Briefing-grocery store tour April 29, 9:30-11 a.m., ACS; Resume Workshop 102 April 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., computer lab; Are You A Team Player? workshop April 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Old Sanctuary; Interview Workshop 102 April 29, 7-9 p.m., Old Sanctuary; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room.

NSA Sports & Fitness (02 717-9667) 5K Spring Fun Run/Walk May 1, 10 a.m., Tervuren Park.
Outdoor Recreation (02 717-9775 or 0474 683 544) Flower Parade and

Keukenhof April 24, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m., price \$45 adults, \$39 children; Rhein River and Boat Ride May 1, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., price \$49 adults, \$39 children; Tongeren Antique Market May 2, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., price \$20 adults, \$12 children; Keukenhof and Delft Factory Tour May 9, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., price \$40 adults, \$33 children

NSA Education Center (02 717-9704) Free French Head Start classes, chapters 1-5, April 26-30; Chapters 6-10 offered May 3-7 and May 10-14. Classes 9:00 a.m.-noon in the Ed Center.

Three Star Lounge (02 717-9822 or 9819) Karaoke Night April 24, 9 p.m.; Rick Moore Magic Show for the whole family, May 3, 7 p.m.; Movie Night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

NSA Chapel (02 717-9708) Couples Retreat May 8-9.

Multi-Craft Center (02 717-9629) The NSA Multi-Craft Center offers cross-stitching classes Wednesday afternoons, Saturday mornings or afternoons and Sunday afternoons; basic knitting classes Fridays at 10 a.m. and jewelry making classes Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Call for more info or to sign up.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

Get out the vote

Members of the military and U.S. citizens who live abroad are eligible to register and vote absentee in federal elections under the provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) of 1986.

"The process is simple," said Maj. William Willis, S2/S3 for 80th Area Support Group. "For Soldiers and family members that are eligible to vote, civilians that work for the DOD, or D.A. and retirees, and basically any citizen overseas, all can register to vote absentee. You fill out a document known as a federal postcard application, and your unit voting assistance officer can help."

One of Willis' other duties is senior voting assistance officer for the 80th ASG.

"I cover Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 80th ASG, and everybody else on Daumerie Caserne and Chièvres Air Base," Willis said. "That's basically it, you fill out the post card with information on your voting



Broderbund

residence back in the States and your mailing address here, and you send that back to the registrar or county clerk in your home county in the states, and they will send you a card back acknowledging that they received your registration."

Willis said about 15-45 days before the general election in November, an absentee ballot will be mailed back to Europe.

"If your state has a primary election between now and then, they'll send you a ballot for that," Willis said. "If you don't receive your ballot back from the

States in time to vote, most polls will accept the absentee ballot up until the close of the polls on the day of the election, because mail sometimes takes time to get back to the States. If you have not received your ballot from the state in time, then we can execute a federal write-in absentee ballot with the help of the unit voting assistance officer. They write in whoever they wish to vote for, and then it's sent back in time for the election."

To identify any unit voting assistance officer, or for any information about absentee voting, call Willis at DSN 361-5590.



Willis

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

American Red Cross is looking for gently used items to be auctioned May 15 in the International School cafeteria. All proceeds go to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund which aids victims of disasters around the world. Info: 065 44-4008.

Fitness instructors wanted - The Fitness Center on Chièvres Air Base seeks instructors. Info: 068 27-5506 or email ChievresActivityCenter@benelux.army.mil

SHAPE entertainment update: The Rick Moore Magic Show is May 4, 7:30 p.m., at the IC Club on SHAPE; Evening acting classes begin May 4, 6-7:30 p.m., the session runs through June, depending on interest it will meet once or twice a week, cost is Euro 20; Performances for The Complete History of America Abridged directed by Tobin Atkinson, are May 7 - 7:30 p.m., May 8 - 7 and 9 p.m., May 9 - 3 p.m., at SHAPE Entertainment Centre, tickets are Euro 8 adults, Euro 6 students, and Euro 4 children 12 and under. Info: Shape Entertainment Centre, civilian 065 44 33 12, Box office hours are 2-5:30 p.m., www.shapeonline.net, or Email jacqueline.collins@benelux.army.mil

The **Central Issue Facility** is closed through April 26 and reopens April 27. Info: DSN 361-5187 or 361-5542.

The **Welcoming Everyone to Belgium** center is an Army Community Service satellite office located in Hotel Maisières, open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. The WEB is a resource center for newcomers as well as others that need information about the SHAPE/Chièvres community and the local area. The WEB office also helps with directions or quick French to English translations. The WEB office has several books and sightseeing information. You may also post your community announcements such as information on community events and private sales ads at the WEB. Rendezvous with French Language to learn useful French words May 26, and June 22, 10 a.m.-noon, at the W.E.B. Center. Free class.

Say it with flowers - Spring flowers for U.S. housing units will be delivered April 26 to Maisières/Casteau; April 27 to Lens/Ghlin; and April 28 to Green Park. GRHP and GFOQ customers are invited to pick up flowers at the Self Help store in Building 25 on

Chièvres Air Base. Info: DSN 361-5421

Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne has a Cinco de Mayo party May 1, 7 p.m.; Country night is May 8, 8:30 p.m.; Karaoke Night is May 13, 8-11 p.m.; Dart Tourney is May 17, 19, 7 p.m. Info: Kristyn Facchini, DSN 361-5540.

Anger Management Course, meets May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 9-10 a.m., at ACS, Building 318 in SHAPE. Info: Keith Nielsen, DSN 423-5263;

Help for newcomers - Info, Veronique Hensgens, 423-4332. Sponsorship Training, May 5, 10-11 a.m.; Make The Right Move, May 5, 2-3 p.m., Both classes meet at ACS in Building 318 in SHAPE; Newcomer Briefing, May 13, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Hotel Maisières; Take the Bus, May 13, 1:30-5 p.m., depart from Hotel Maisières to Mons.

Financial classes - Meet at ACS, Building 318 on SHAPE, all classes are 10 a.m.-noon, info - Kimberly Henne, DSN 423-4824: *Personal financial readiness*, mandatory for first term soldiers, May 4; *Building a Spending Plan*, May 6; *Checkbook Management*, *More Month Than Money*, May 7; *Insur-*

ance - Which is best for you, May 10; *Using Credit Wisely*, May 11; *Debt Reduction Strategies - How to be debt free*, May 12; *Savings and Investments - Where to stash your cash*, May 13; *Consumer Rights and Obligations*, May 14.

BOSS meeting is May 6, 1:30 p.m., at Chièvres Air Base Community Activity Center conference room. Info: Staff Sgt. Angela Houston, DSN 423-4561.

Story Time at the library on Chièvres Air Base is May 6, 13, and 27, 4:30-5 p.m. Info: Jackie Goldfarb, DSN 361-5767.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is May 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at SHAPE Officers' Club ballroom. Info: Grace Cesonis, DSN 423-4270.

Job Information Fair, May 27, 10 a.m.-noon, at Hotel Maisières. Info: Pina Artale, DSN 423-4904.

A **class in AE Pubs** is May 6, 8:30 a.m.-noon, at the Digital Training Facility on Chièvres Air Base. There are 32 available seats. RSVP: Staff Sgt. Edward Hoffman, DSN 361-5395 or edward.hoffman@benelux.army.mil

254th BSB and Geilenkirchen Local Calendars

Army Learning Center at Treebeek has new hours: Monday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bus passes for AFNorth International School students living in the Netherlands are valid for school year 2004-2005 and for the time they're attending AIS. The only time a student will need to get a new pass is if they change residence, move from IY2 to IY3 or if the pass is damaged or mutilated.

Orcas International Swim Team season runs through June 17. Children ages 6-19 of civilian or

military personnel supporting the NATO mission at GK, AFNorth or Schinnen are eligible. Call Max Wiseman at 49 2454-969185 or email max.wiseman@t-online.de

The next newcomer's orientation in the 254th BSB is April 30, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The next Tri-border parenting fairs are May 4 at the James van Dierendonck Elementary School at GK, 10 a.m., and May 7 at the rear of the AFNorth International School library, also at 10 a.m.

A **team building course** is offered June 16-18 at Chievres. The course is designed for supervisors, managers or employees who

want to improve team performance and relationships. Info: DSN 375-9837.

Jobs available - Directorate of Community Activities has part time positions for child and youth program assistants in child development center, school age services and youth services, info - Benelux CPAC, 32 6827-5467 or visit Benelux.cpac@cpoecur.army.mil; Andrews Federal Credit Union has two positions, previous experience required, info - 046 443-7507; Schinnen Commissary has a job in the delicatessen section for American applicants, info - stop by the commissary.

Youth Services - Middle school dance April 23 and 29, 6-8 p.m., info: 045 526-3595.

SATO Travel has a trip to Prague April 24. Call 046 443-7385.

TaeBo/aerobics classes are Monday-Thursday, 6-7 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center, Sign up at the Fitness Center. Info: call 31 46 443-7561.

Adult classes set - Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held in ACS Building 39 at Schinnen, 046 443-7500: New Parent Education infant massage classes May 4, 10-11 a.m.; Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tues-

day, "Finding Employment," 10 a.m.-noon, and "Hands on Resumix," 2-4 p.m.

News from Geilenkirchen Focus group meets - The next Health Care Customer Focus Interaction meeting is April 28, 2 p.m., in GK Clinic conference room. Any member of the community is invited to attend and submit issues before hand to karen.cox@geilenkirchen.af.mil or at 49 2451 99-3345.

Workshop offered - American Family Support Center at GK has Ten Steps to a Federal Job workshop May 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., call 49 2451 63-3791 to reserve a spot.

Morales inductee promotes physical training



PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley
Staff Sgt. David Flynn encourages Spec. William Wolff to give his total effort during a physical training test April 6 at Chièvres Air Base Community Activity Center. Both are military policemen and Wolff is one of Flynn's Soldiers.

By F. Neil Neeley
Staff Sgt. David Flynn, a platoon sergeant at the military police platoon attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 80th Area Support Group, on Chièvres, was inducted into the U.S. Army Europe's prestigious Sergeant Morales Club during a March 12 luncheon at Grafenwoehr. Flynn becomes the first NCO

to be selected from the 80th ASG in more than three years.
"Sergeant Morales" is a fictional Soldier who is intended to represent the best in leadership and personal concern for the Soldiers under his command. Sergeant Morales Club members must exhibit these qualities in order to be selected. Only NCOs stationed in Europe are eligible. Prospective members appear before a board of senior NCOs who judge them based on answers to a series of

questions, which are primarily about taking care of Soldiers. A Soldier must pass the board several times, at different levels of command, before he is selected for the club.
"It's a huge accomplishment," he said. "A lot of the best leaders that I've known in the Army have been members of this club. To be considered in the same class with them is one of the biggest honors in my thirteen year military career."

Flynn hopes to become the vanguard for a new chapter of the Morales Club at Chièvres. "There's not one here," he said. "Command Sgt. Maj. (Jose) Rogers has me working closely with the individuals from the other chapters in Germany trying to establish a constitution and bylaws to start a club here."

He takes pride in being a positive influence on other Soldiers. "As long as I can influence one Soldier and change their life, that's a huge accomplishment for my life," Flynn said. "Being directly involved with these kids that are brand new to the army and teaching them, that's probably my biggest passion right there."

Flynn likes to find out what makes his Soldiers tick. "I want to know how they grew up and what kind of things that they experienced when they were growing up," he said. "That way I can try to get a feel for what kind of personality they have."

Flynn encourages his Soldiers to identify what they think their strengths and weakness are. Next he gives them an evaluation of these traits from his own perspective.

"I expand on that, giving them advice based on my own experience as a Soldier and leader," Flynn said. "Then we develop a plan together to maintain and improve the strengths and correct what they feel their weaknesses are."

One of the things that Flynn does to motivate young Soldiers to grow as future NCOs is to assign them additional responsibilities. He also encourages their participation in the various kinds of Soldier boards. "Based on merit and what they are doing to further their military education and career, we set up a plan to nominate them for a Soldier of the Month board," he said.

Flynn has been through over fifty Soldiers boards over his thirteen year career.

"Based on what I've been though, I try to set them up for success the best that I can," Flynn said. "We develop a study plan. Normally their team leaders are directly responsive for that but I frequently study with them and give them pointers on what the board members are looking for as far as uniforms, presentation and board procedures."

What's the best thing that the young Soldiers of today are bringing into the Army? "They're more educated now," he said. "A trend that I've noticed is that a lot of them have college and some have degrees. What they bring is a smarter more intelligent thinking force."

But Flynn has also noticed a trend for new Soldiers to be less physically fit. "I think one of the things that gets lost in basic training and AIT is physical fitness standards," he said. "They're coming to us not able to be in tolerance as far as physical fitness so one of our challenges is that we really need to focus on making them meet the standards."

Managing a physical fitness program for his shift workers is indeed a challenge. "I develop the physical training program for the month or two months and then I designate a time when each shift is going to conduct PT. I check on it of course and then make sure it's being done."

Deployments to places like Iraq go with a military policeman's job. Flynn believes that it's possible to prepare a young Soldier in an environment like Chièvres to go anywhere and take on any mission even though it's a bit slower here than other places.

Flynn explains, "It's not as dynamic here as Ft. Stewart where we had cases of rape and murder, reckless driving or fatality traffic accidents. Here our Soldiers don't get thrown into that right away. We are in the process of readjusting our organization to accommodate more training to better prepare them for situations like that."

Flynn's long term goal is to become a Command Sergeant Major where he figures his impact on his fellow Soldiers will be at its greatest. "To be at the command sergeant major level, that's awesome," he said.

When asked to whom he credited with having the most positive impact on his own career, Flynn cited 1st Sgt. Max Brown, now at Ft. Campbell, Ky. and Sgt. 1st Class Russ Mason, currently a commander of a Louisiana recruiting station.

"Those two gentlemen were constantly pushing me to be the absolute best that I could possibly be and they gave me the basic tools to do that," he said.

Flynn credits his wife with helping him make it to the Sergeant Morales Club. "She totally supported me as far as helping me get ready for this board," he said.

Flynn hails from Damascus, Md. and his wife is from Ashtabula, Ohio but neither city should count on them putting down roots there again anytime soon. If he possibly can, Flynn plans to stay in the Army for a full thirty years.



Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
(closed)	May 7	May 24	Jun 4	June 28	July 9	July 26	Aug. 6
May 10	May 21	June 7	June 18	July 12	July 23	Aug. 9	Aug. 20

About Us



The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request, but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Benelux Meteor* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

Commanders

COL Timothy J. Quinn	80th Area Support Group
LTC Deborah P. Broughton	254th Base Support Battalion
LTC Jon M. Davis Jr.	NATO Support Activity
Public Affairs Officers and personnel	
Marie-Lise Baneton	80th Area Support Group
Susan Jackson	254th Base Support Battalion
Rick Haverinen	Editor
F. Neil Neeley	Writer
Sandy Aubrey	Writer

Powell to the people

United States Secretary of State Colin Powell visits with families at NATO Headquarters in Brussels April 2. He holds Paige Engling, 9 months old, born on the Fourth of July. Her parents are Sgt. Don and April Engling. Powell was in town for a flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the accession of the seven new members added to the Alliance. The new members are Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The addition of these new allies brings the total of member nations to 26.



PHOTO: Dorothy Nevins

Scouts race custom derby mini-cars

By Susan Jackson

The 30 some-odd race cars didn't raise noise decibels at the Sports Center – but the rallying cheers from Cub Scout Troop 100 members, siblings and parents sure did.

Over 100 people championed their favorite scouts during the annual Pinewood Derby March 27. (In non-scouting lingo, that's miniature car racing on tracks.) The competitive event challenged Troop 100's Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelows in a

morning full of fun and excitement.

Tri-border Cub Scouts began customizing their race cars during different den meetings, depending on their age groups. Each scout finished the project at home though with his parents' help.

Looking at the unique customizing was nearly as much fun as watching the races, too. There was a bat mobile, an Army vehicle, and a tiger-striped car among others.

In the speed category, first place went to

Harrison Rieping; second to Dylan Parmley; and third went to Nick Leonard. For the most unusual racecar, Andrew Carney took first place, Justin Leonard took second and, Aaron Warren took third. For craftsmanship, first place went to Kthan Graham; second Joshua Holt; and third Noah Carney. The racecar with the most Scout spirit went to John Crate, and Cubmaster's choice went to John-Sebastian Shaw.

"This event was meant to teach the boys

many things," Cub Master Rich Carney said. "It's a parent/child project and so brings the family together doing something worthwhile and fun. It also teaches the boys creativity and craftsmanship skills, enhances the camaraderie between the boys, and teaches them good sportsmanship."

Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to have the boys doing things. The Cub Scout motto, "Do your best," is what leaders strive to teach the young men.



PHOTO: Susan Jackson

D.J. Haskin, 11, sets his 'Rainbow Racer' carefully in position. He said it took him a couple of days to make the car and it was fun to race it.

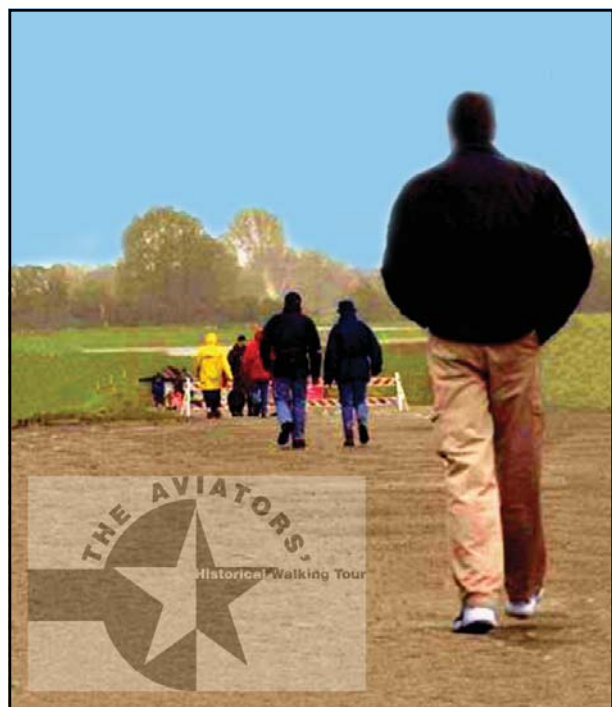
Got one!

Although kids seem to be coming out of everywhere, six-year old Nataleigh Ryan made sure she found some eggs April 2 at the 254th Base Support Bn. Easter Egg Hunt and Kinder Fest. A free pancake breakfast, served by the Directorate of Community Affairs staff, kicked off the event. Over 500 parents and children showed up for the egg hunt, face painting, mini Ferrari cars, cotton candy, egg decorating, the inflatable slide, and helium balloon messages.



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

Aviators' March is healthy tradition, family fun



It may be possible for people to have almost too much fun on May Day.

The fifth celebration of the Aviators' March will return to Chièvres Air Base on May 1. Volksmarchers can register and depart from the Community Activities Center 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on marked routes of 5, 10, 15 or 20 kilometers.

The routes meander out of the air base through Chièvres, Bauffe and Ladeuze and are marked with historical displays. Some of the sights are the German control tower and fire department, the last World War II buildings still standing on Chièvres Air Base; the Bauffe chateau, which the Luftwaffe used as their officers club; the ruins of the old German convent, where the Nazis detained prisoners of war; the site where Belgian Resistance fighters Marguerite Bervoets and Cécile Detournay were arrested in 1942; buildings in Bauffe that had their roofs trimmed to accommodate takeoffs by heavily-laden German aircraft headed for bombing runs over England; and the Chièvres Grand Place where Germans buried a huge gasoline tank that is still there today.

The event is a cooperative effort between the local volkmarch club "Le Roitelet," 80th Area Support Group

and 309th Airlift Squadron. It is sanctioned by IVV. Admission is free, but registration fee for the walk is 75 Euro cents, which includes insurance. Parking is free on Chièvres Air Base.

Access to the air base is through Gate #1, which is the main entrance on Rue de Ath.

Entertainment at the community Activities Center includes "Royale Fanfare de Chièvres" at 11 a.m. This local band traces its start from 1823. Rick Moore's World of Magic Show is at 1 p.m. The pop and rock configuration of the SHAPE International Band, "Task Force 8" performs 3-5 p.m. Awards are presented at 5 p.m.

Some of the menu items from various vendors will include a continental breakfast, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and Asian barbeque. Drink vendors will serve water, soft drinks and beer. There will also be snacks at check points along the various march routes.

There will be discount tours at Chièvres Air Base International Museum.

Marchers without a U.S. ID card must pre-register by calling 32 68 27-5419 during duty hours or by filling out a form on the website, <http://www.80asg.army.mil>